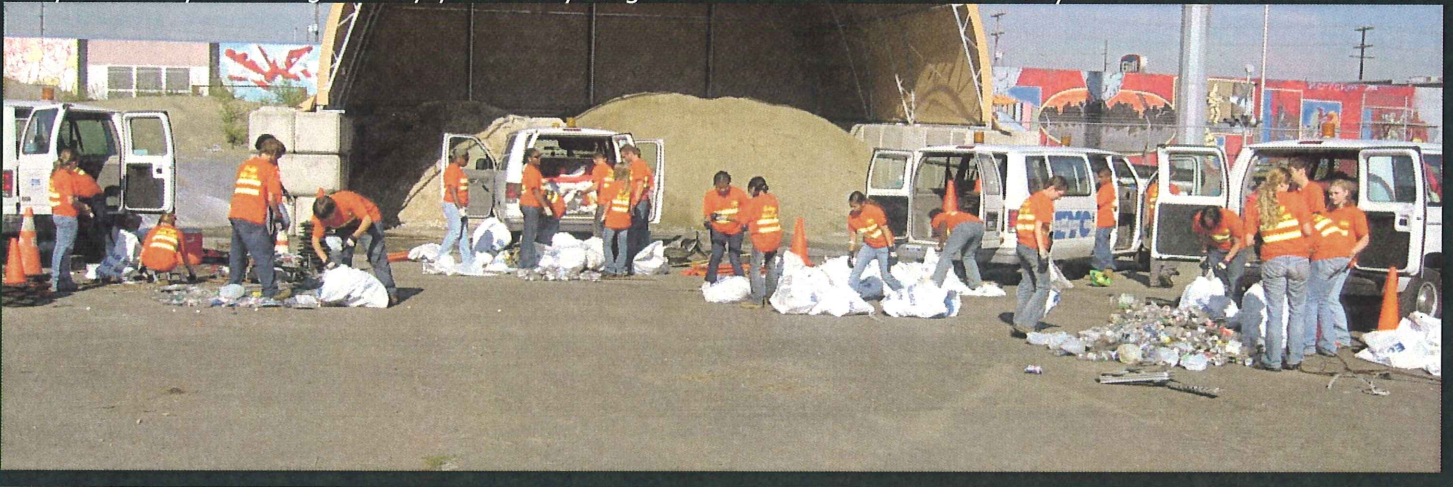




Recycle Friday: 24 King County youth recycling at WSDOT maintenance facility south of downtown Seattle



ECOLOGY YOUTH CORPS - 2005 ANNUAL REPORT

NORTHWEST REGIONAL OFFICE



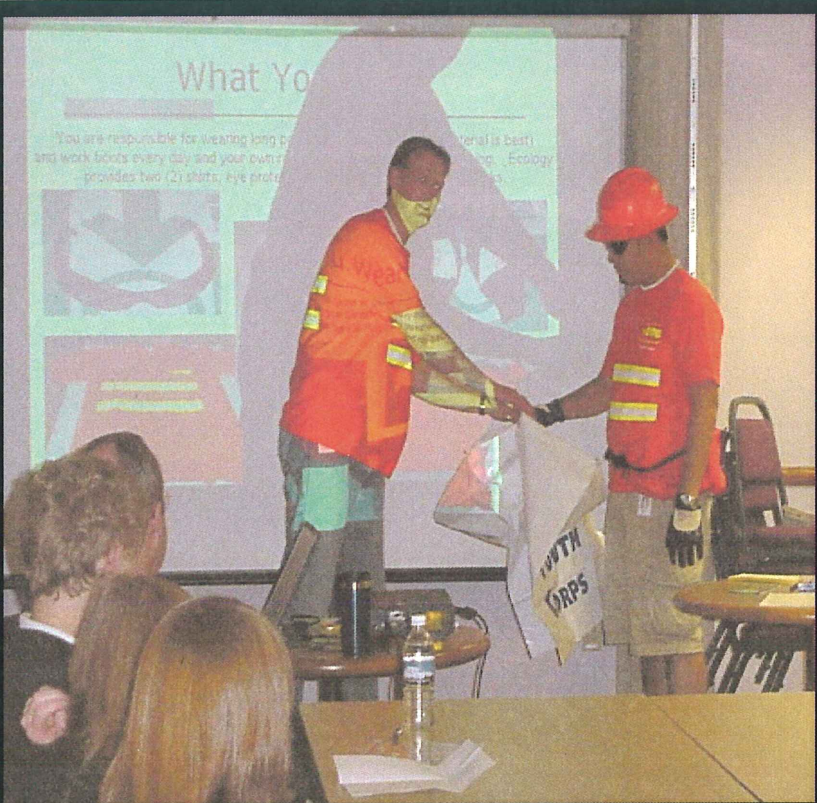
North King Youth Crew displays their morning haul from a notoriously dirty on-ramp on Interstate-405 in Bellevue



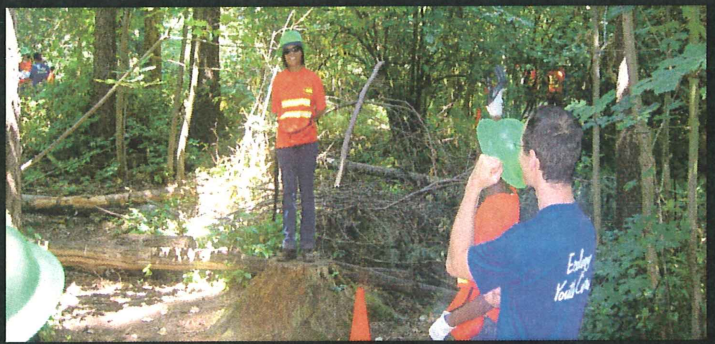
After negotiating turnarounds through twelve lanes of traffic on Interstate-5 in North Seattle, the King County Median Crew takes a moment to admire their work



An East King Youth prepares for her turn at the orientation day Trust Walk



New hires along with their parent/guardian find out more about the summer ahead during a May hiring meeting



Youth crews on orientation day - clockwise from upper left: The Safety Plate, Declaration Stump, Litter Hot Spot, and Warning Signs



Section 1. Executive Summary & Overview

2005 was a successful year for the Ecology Youth Corps (EYC) in the Northwest Regional Office (NWRO). Outputs for the year are found in Table 1-1; details of outputs by season and county can be found in Sections 2 and 3. Recycling totals by commodity are in Table 1-2.

Table 1-1
NWRO EYC Outputs 2005

HOURS WORKED	23,166
MILES CLEANED	1,515.7
POUNDS COLLECTED	352,515

Table 1-2
NWRO Recycling
Outputs by Commodity

ALUMINUM	3,802
SCRAP METAL	21,500
GLASS	8,417
PLASTIC	2,075
MISCELLANEOUS	1,284
TOTAL	37,078

Recycled items comprised 10.5% of all material collected.

Several crews also did a small amount of acreage and illegal dump cleanup. This year crews cleaned 58 acres and 8 illegal dumps, collecting 3,600 pounds. Illegal dump cleanup represents only 1% of overall effort.

Comparing 2005 outputs to 2004 outputs, operational efficiencies (pounds and miles relative to hours worked) were significantly improved, most notably in miles cleaned. Hours worked decreased by 4.3%, however miles cleaned increased by 60.3% and total pounds collected increased by 13.0%. See Table 1-3 for a comparison of 2005 with previous years. One factor influencing the notable operating efficiency improvements was the lack of Litter Survey work this year; however, credit also goes to the great efforts of the supervisors and their crews for their collective efforts.

Table 1-3
2005 Output Compared to 2002, 2003, and 2004

	2002	2003	2004	2005
HOURS WORKED	20,891	24,627	24,211	23,166
MILES CLEANED	761.2	943.9	945.5	1,515.7
POUNDS COLLECTED	233,686	307,688	311,925	352,515

There were four personal injuries/incidents that required medical attention beyond on-site first aid; one twisted ankle, one strained neck, one lacerated hand, and one case of anxiety-induced hyperventilation. The injuries resulted in a total of two lost days of work.

There were two vehicle accidents this year – one of which EYC was at fault. The at-fault accident was a rear-end fender-bender involving one other car, resulting in minor damage and no injuries. The other accident was when an EYC Suburban was stopped on the shoulder of an exit, with the crew inside, and it was clipped in the rear driver's side by a motorist who drifted onto the shoulder. Thankfully, there was only one minor injury to the crew from this incident. Additionally, there was one incident in which a tire a crew was collecting rolled into traffic and damaged several cars that subsequently drove over the tire after it came to rest.

There were 114 persons employed by the NWRO EYC this year - 94 youth crew members, 8 median crew members, and 12 supervisors. Details of youth hiring are found in Section 2.2.

Section 2. Operations & Outputs

Ecology Youth Corps activities are divided into three sessions – spring, summer, and fall. This year, spring session was from March 16 through June 16, with two median crews operating, one based in King County and the other in Whatcom County. Summer session was from June 27 to August 19. During summer there were eight youth crews and one median crew. In the fall, lasting from August 22 through November 30, the median crews were once again based out of King and Whatcom counties.

Section 2.1 – Spring Session

The *spring Whatcom County median* crew was headed by Danny Lockwood, in his third year with EYC. The crew cleaned portions of the following roads:

- Interstate 5
- State Routes 9, 20, 536, 542

Dave Keeney supervised the *spring King County median* crew. Dave is a three-year veteran of EYC. The crew cleaned portions of the following roads:

- Interstate 5, Interstate 90, Interstate 405
- State Routes 18, 99, 167, 509, 518, 520, 522, 599, 900

Table 2-1 shows outputs for the spring session of both crews.

Table 2-1
NWRO Spring Outputs 2005

HOURS WORKED	2,614
MILES CLEANED	222.5
ACRES CLEANED	9.3
POUNDS COLLECTED	70,710
POUNDS RECYCLED	9,120

Section 2.2 – Summer Session

There were 846 youth crew applicants this year, a 32% increase in applications from the previous year. 2005 was the first year EYC accepted online applications and this was largely responsible for the significant increase in applications received. There were 542 applications received hard copy and 304 online applications received. There were 94 youth crew positions available; 16 of the available positions were filled by returning youth from summer 2004 who had been invited back based on excellent performance. Through a random drawing, 240 youth were selected for interviews to fill the remaining 78 vacancies. Table 2-2 details equal opportunity hiring statistics of the youth selected for hire.

Table 2-2
Youth Hired by Gender and Ethnicity

	Number Hired	Percent of Total
MALE	47	50%
FEMALE	47	50%
TOTAL	94	100%
CAUCASIAN	66	70.2%
MINORITY/OTHER	26	27.7%
UNKNOWN	2	2.1%
TOTAL	94	100%

There were three experienced supervisors this summer and six new ones. In addition to the nine supervisors, Dave Keeney transitioned from median crew supervisor to be the new regional summer crew checker. Dave dutifully visited each crew weekly, providing technical expertise, substituting as needed and getting to thoroughly know the heavily traveled roads in the Northwest Region.

Eight youth crews and one median crew operated during the summer session. The summer outputs are found in Table 2-3. There was one youth crew each based out of Kitsap, Skagit, and Whatcom counties; 1.5 youth crews in Snohomish County, and the remaining 3.5 youth crews based in King County. The summer median crew also operated out of King County.

Table 2-3
NWRO Summer Outputs 2005

HOURS WORKED	16,883
MILES CLEANED	889
ACRES CLEANED	33
POUNDS COLLECTED	203,460
POUNDS RECYCLED	18,168

Erik Moore supervised the 12 youth hired in *Whatcom County*. Erik was a forth-year supervisor; he is an excellent motivator of youth. The crew cleaned all of Interstate 5 shoulders and interchanges from Canada to Skagit County, as well as portions of SR20, SR542 and SR548, and assisted with small portions of Interstate 5 between Everett and Marysville. They collected 23,025 pounds of material and cleaned 137.1 miles of road. The Whatcom crew had a faultless safety record and perfect attendance.

First-year supervisor R. Patrick Donovan supervised the *Skagit County* crew; ten youth were hired. The crew collected 16,020 pounds of material while cleaning 142.5 miles. The Skagit crew worked on all shoulders and interchanges of Interstate 5 from Whatcom County, through Skagit, and five miles into Snohomish County. The crew also cleaned portions of SR20 between Anacortes and Sedro Woolley and parts of SR9. The Skagit crew was the top mile cleaning crew this summer and thus receipt of the Coveted Blue Jack.

Stacy Lynn Lawler supervised the summer youth crew in *Snohomish County*. This was Stacy's first year with EYC. The 12 youth under her supervision cleaned 114.5 miles of road and removed 17,070 pounds of debris. They cleaned many sections of Interstate 5, mostly north of Lynnwood to the near the Skagit County line as well as several stretches of SR525 and SR526.

The *East King County* crew (which also included several youth from south Snohomish County) was lead by first-year supervisor Heather Marie King Benson. Twelve youth were hired. Heather's crew spent the majority of their effort cleaning heavily trafficked stretches of shoulder and interchanges on Interstate 405 and SR522. They also cleaned some portions of Interstate 90 and SR520. They removed 21,120 pounds of material while cleaning 74.8 miles. The East King crew had perfect attendance.

Jason Tran was the *North King County* supervisor; this was his first year with EYC. Jason supervised a diverse group of 12 youth. Jason and crew spent six weeks in heavy traffic cleaning Interstate 5 and Interstate 405 shoulders and interchanges from Seattle to Bothell. They spent the final two weeks on Interstate 405 in Bellevue. The North King crew picked up 25,815 pounds of material from 85.5 miles of road.

Stephen Singer, new to EYC in 2005, was in charge of one of the *South King County* crews; Stephen was very adept at supervising the 12 spirited youth in his charge. Stephen and the South King youth cleaned Interstate 5 from the Pierce County line north to Interstate 405 and SR167 from Interstate 405 south to the Pierce County line. They also cleaned several stretches of Interstate 405 near Renton. The crew cleaned 53.8 miles of road and collected 27,675 pounds of material. Stephen's crew was the top recycling crew this summer with 2,921 pounds of material diverted from landfills, earning Stephen the Better than Bauxite Award.

The other *South King County* operated under the direction of Kellan Martz – another first year supervisor. Twelve youth were hired, though one youth and several alternates backed out and only 11 youth actually worked on Kellan's crew. Kellan and his crewmembers cleaned Interstate 5 from Des Moines south to the Pierce County line and SR167 from the Pierce County line north to Interstate 405. They also cleaned several stretches of Interstate 405 near Renton. This crew was our top pound producer, collecting

31,380 pounds of litter while cleaning 54.3 miles of road. As top pound collector, Kellan was presented with the Prestigious Oak Lid.

The final youth crew in the NWRO was Rick Haskin's *Kitsap County* crew. This was Rick's ninth year supervising our Kitsap County youth crew. Twelve youth were hired to work in Kitsap County. The crew picked up 14,160 pounds of material while cleaning 86 miles of road. They focused their efforts on SR3 between Poulsbo and Bremerton and SR16 between Gorst and Gig Harbor.

Collin Binder supervised the *summer King County median* crew. This was Collin's second year as a supervisor. This crew focused on medians and interchanges of SR167 and medians on Interstate 5 near Federal Way. They also cleaned several mega-interchanges on Interstates 5 and 405 and portions of SR169 between Maple Valley and Enumclaw. Their final outputs were 27,195 pounds collected and 140.5 miles cleaned.

Section 2.3 – Fall Session

Erik Moore switched from Whatcom Youth to supervise the *fall Whatcom County median* crew. The crew spent the majority of their effort on Interstate 5 median in Whatcom and Skagit counties. Additional cleaning occurred on SR9 and SR542.

With summer completed Dave Keeney resumed his median supervisory role, taking back the *fall King County median* crew. The crew cleaned portions of the following roads:

- Interstate 5, Interstate 90, Interstate 405
- State Routes 18, 99, 167, 509, 516, 518, 520, 522, 599, 900

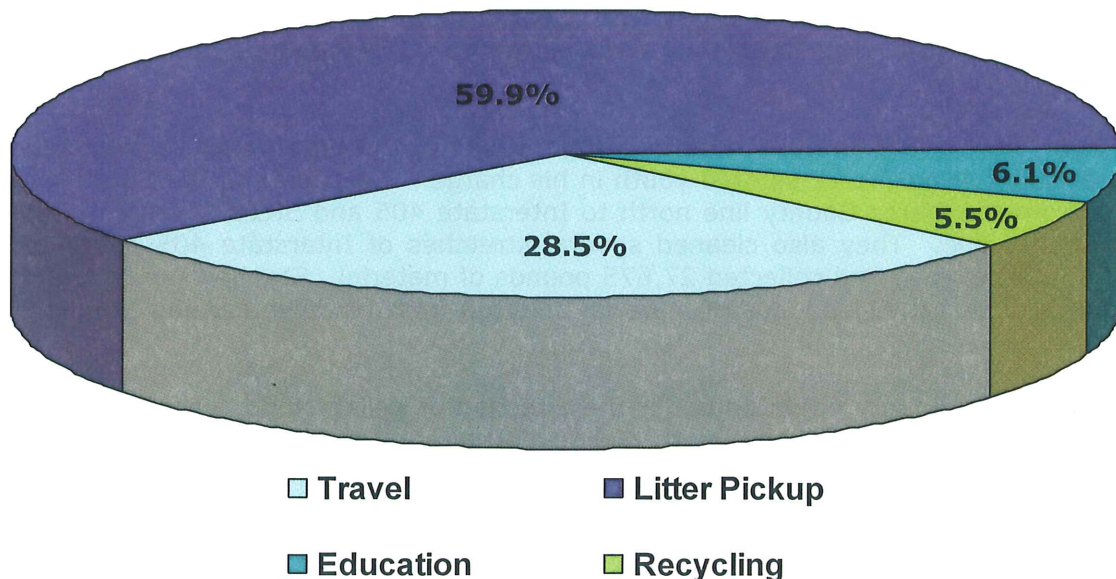
**Table 2-4
NWRO Fall Outputs 2005**

HOURS WORKED	3670
MILES CLEANED	404.2
ACRES CLEANED	16
POUNDS COLLECTED	78,345
POUNDS RECYCLED	9,790

Section 3 – Effort by Activity

EYC tracks crew time by four different activities – travel, cleanup, education and recycling. Chart 3-1 presents the results for 2005.

**Chart 3-1
Percentage of Time Spent by Activity**



Section 4 – Areas Cleaned

Figures 4-1 and 4-2 on the following pages highlight the sections of state roads cleaned by Ecology Youth Corps crews in 2005. The **Yellow Highlights** indicate that *at least* one directional shoulder, an interchange or median was cleaned; however, in many cases both directions of shoulder, interchanges and the median were *all* cleaned.

Figure 4-1: Regional Map of Interstates and State Routes Cleaned by EYC Crews

(NWRO boundary denoted by gray outline)

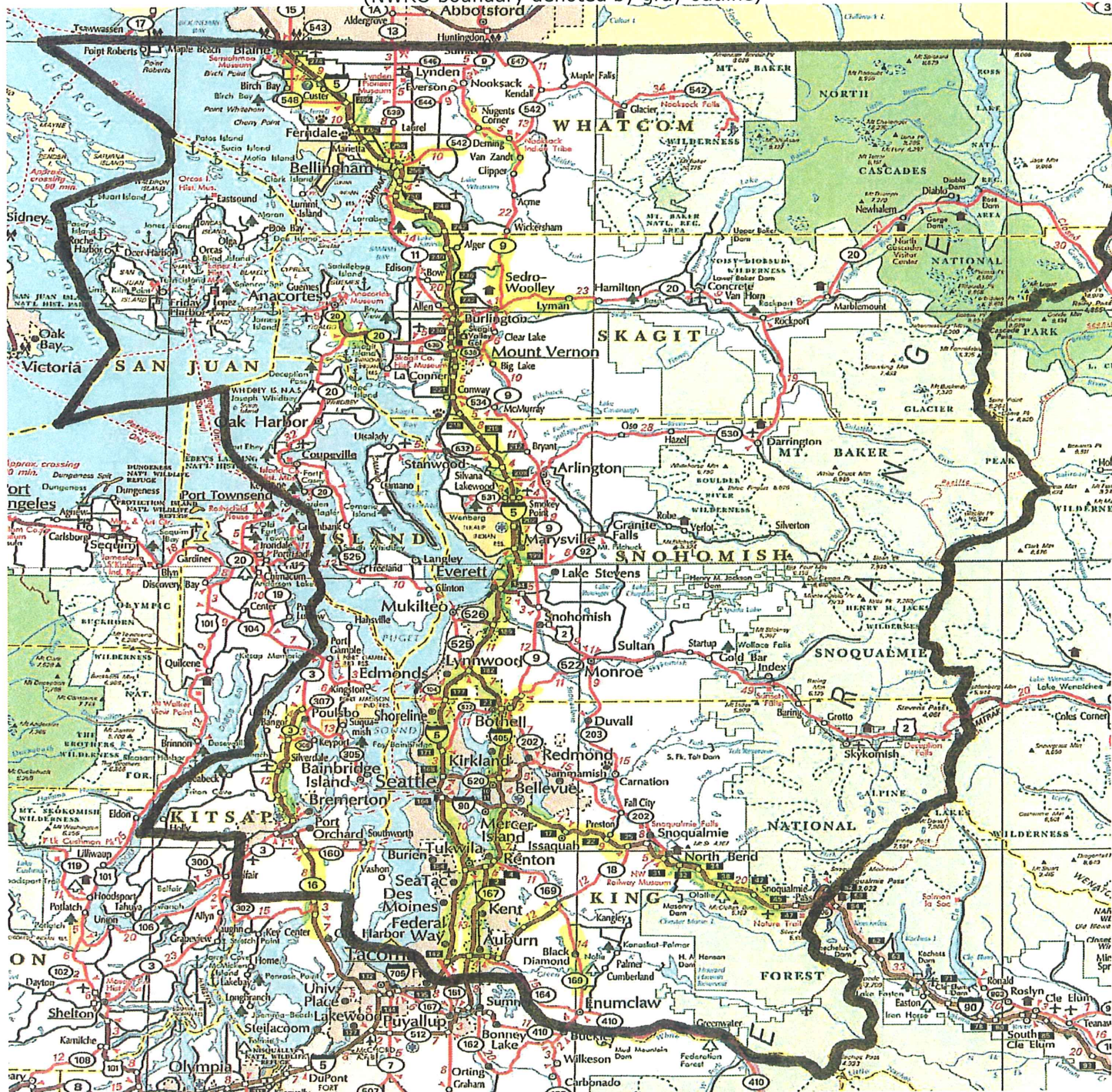
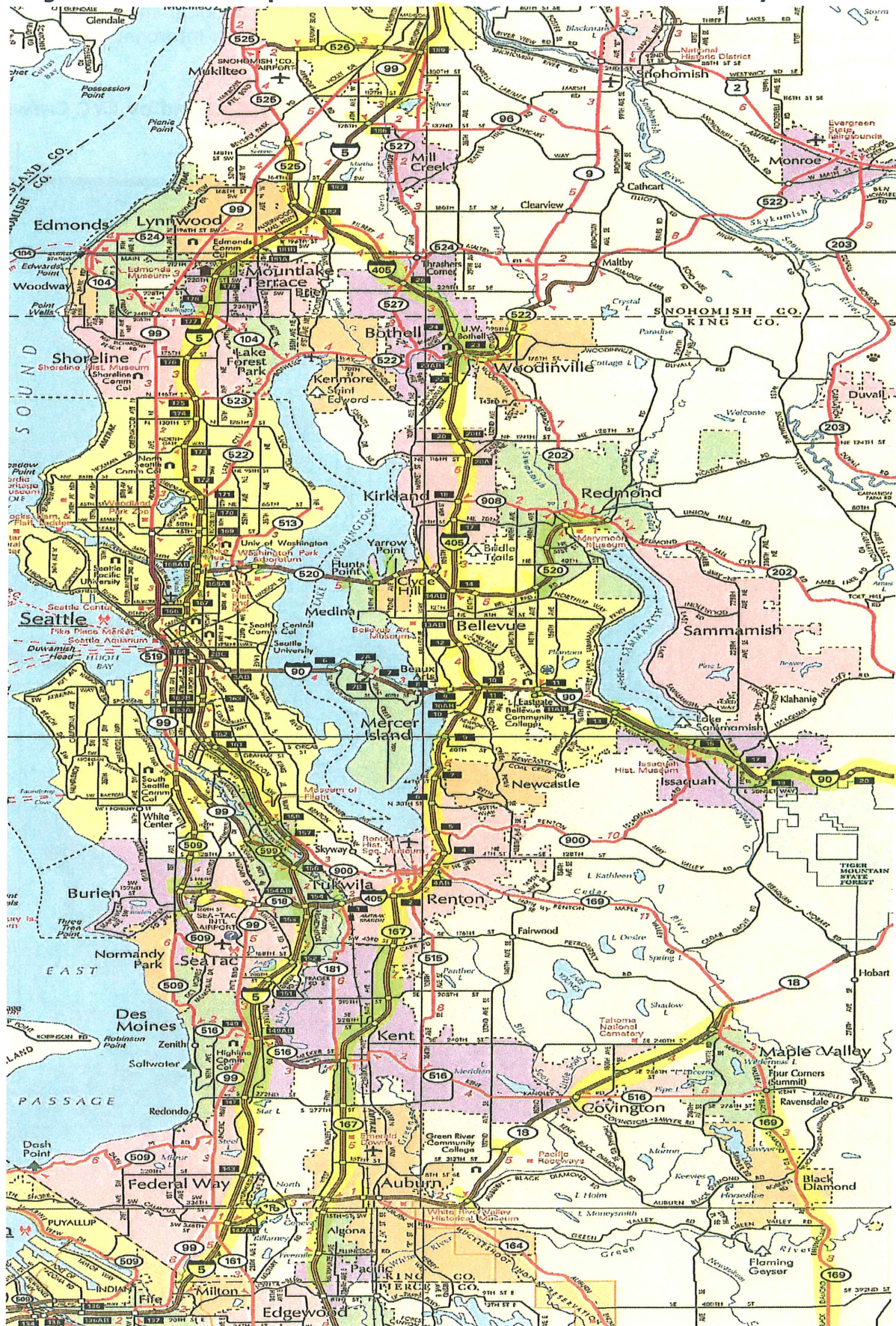


Figure 4-2
Puget Sound Detail Map of Interstates and State Routes Cleaned by EYC Crews



Section 5 – Cleaning Effort by County

The NWRO is comprised of seven counties, though EYC crews operate only out of five of those counties - King, Kitsap, Skagit, Snohomish, and Whatcom. A small portion in NWRO work took place in Pierce County; in this section those outputs are included in Kitsap County's totals. Though assigned in title to specific counties, (e.g. North King or Whatcom) crews often clean in other jurisdictions. Table 5-1 shows outputs by county as a percentage of overall EYC work in the Northwest Region. For perspective each county's percentage of the population of the northwest region is included. It is important to note that even though slightly over 50% of all EYC hours worked were in King County, this is still less than the 58.8% of the population of the Northwest Region that lives in King County.

Table 5-1: Percentage of Outputs by County

(Parentheses is respective county's population as a percentage of the NWRO total population)

KING (58.8%)		KITSAP (7.9%)	
Hours	50.3%	Hours	8.1%
Pounds	62.5%	Pounds	4.0%
Miles	47.9%	Miles	5.7%

SKAGIT (3.6%)		SNOHOMISH (21.2%)		WHATCOM (5.6%)	
Hours	10.0%	Hours	15.2%	Hours	16.3%
Pounds	8.2%	Pounds	10.3%	Pounds	15.1%
Miles	12.7%	Miles	15.1%	Miles	19.2%

The following charts show output by county.

Chart 5.1 - Hours Worked by County

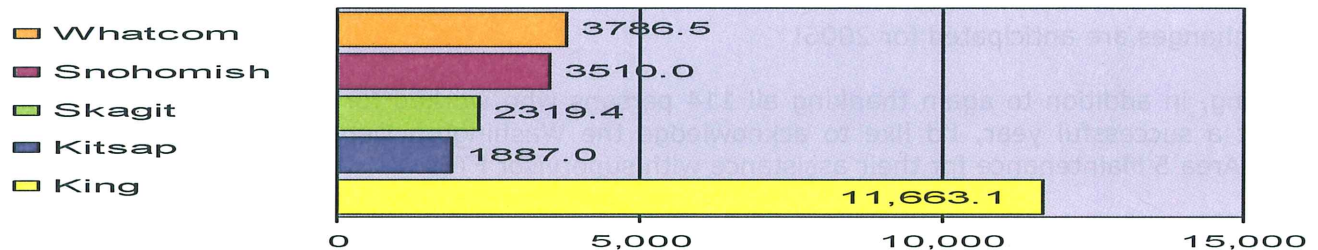


Chart 5.2 - Pounds Collected by County

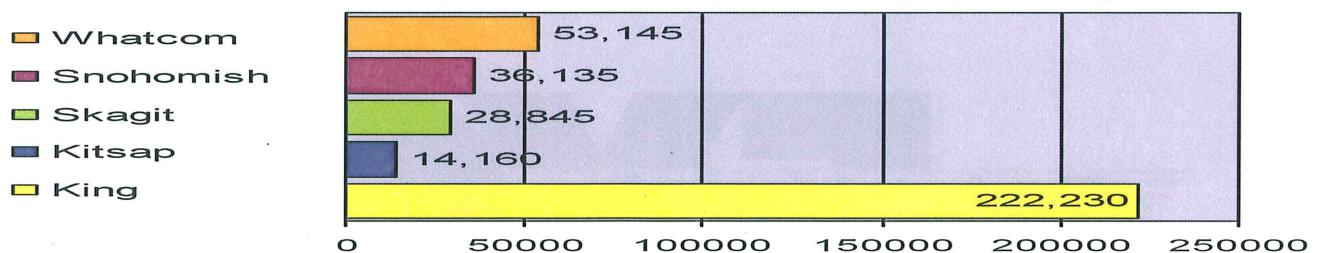
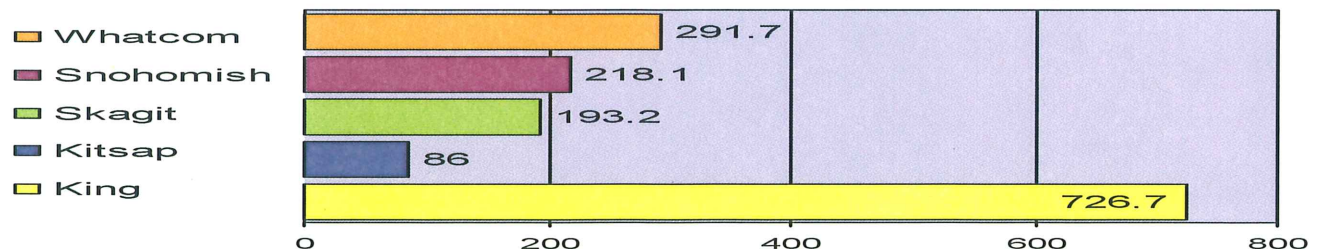


Chart 5.3 - Miles Cleaned by County



Section 6 – Pilots & Conclusions

Several new things were tried this year.



Among the biggest improvements was switching to all new flip phones with voice-mail, speakerphone, hands-free adapters and vibration. All existing pagers and older cell phones were cancelled. SCAN card will be cancelled starting in 2006. The phones will be replaced every two years.



All youth crews switched to orange t-shirts with fanny packs this year; in 2004 two years had piloted this idea with positive feedback. Youth that worked in 2004 with vests and in 2005 with t-shirts and fanny packs overwhelmingly preferred the t-shirt option. The orange t-shirt/fanny pack option shall hence force be modus-operandi.



As mentioned in Section 2, the move to online applications began this year with good results – over 300 applications (32%) came in via the internet. We will continue to direct potential applicants to apply online in the future. In 2006, application packets sent to schools will not contain multiple hard copy applications (as in previous years) but instead instruction for applying online. The goal for 2006 is 50% of applications received via on-line submission.

For the first time youth crew members were sent surveys at the conclusion of their session soliciting their feedback on both the program and their supervisors. About 50% of surveys were returned. Overwhelmingly, youth found their experience rewarding, would recommend the job to a friend, and rated their respective supervisors as fun, safe, fair, and knowledgeable. I concur with the youth about this year's supervisors; the supervisors did an excellent job and all of them are recommended rehires.

No big changes are anticipated for 2006!

In closing, in addition to again thanking all 114 persons who worked for NWRO EYC in 2005 and helped make it a successful year, I'd like to acknowledge the Washington Department of Transportation's NW Region Area 5 Maintenance for their assistance with supervisor FTEs.



"It is not possible for civilization to flow backward while there is youth in the world. Youth may be headstrong, but it will advance its allotted length."

-- Helen Keller